

REMARKS

The claims and description have been reviewed and amended as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected the present application under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by either SU888921 or SU843931.

SU888921 discloses an electropasmolyser having an outer body (1), a drum with pins which are disposed on the outer surface of the drum, a conduit for supplying juice, electrodes 10 formed on the body and a source of three-phase current. The electrodes are spaced from the drum and form a channel in the bottom part of the body. The entry part is perforated to remove the "juice".

SU 843931 discloses an electropasmolyser, for vegetable raw materials which has a body (1) with electrodes 4 and an internal drum 2 with vanes. The drum is fitted with circular electrodes (8) which are spaced from one another. The electrodes on the body are disposed on sections of the circumference with segments of the perimeter equal to 170° transversely relative to the longitudinal axis of the drum and are separate plates with gaps therebetween.

Although both references relate basically to an apparatus corresponding to that disclosed in the present application, many of the important features of the apparatus according to the present invention are not disclosed in either of the cited references.

The references do not disclose a process good supply structure connected to the housing and having a lower area with a supply rake 6 through which the carrier elements of the drum 7 pass to appropriately apportion the goods to be treated to the chambers a of the drum. The references do not disclose that the treatment space is filled with water: In the arrangement according to the invention, the annular chamber is filled with water almost up to the axis of the drum. In the cited references, the "juice" is drained. In the arrangement according to the present invention, the arcing zone is filled with water. In the cited references, no water appears to be present in the arcing zone.

In the arrangement according to the present invention, the process goods are lifted out of the water into the discharge zone. In the prior art, the water is drained from the annular passage through which the process goods are moved. In the arrangement according to the invention, the apparatus includes a discharge zone through which the carrier elements (5)

pass and which includes a discharge rake (14) through which the carrier elements pass whereby the rake collects the processed goods carried along by the carrier elements and directs them onto a discharge chute 15, after the goods have been lifted out of the water – nothing similar is described in the cited references. In the arrangement according to the invention, at least one electrode group (1) which is disposed in the lowest arc area of the reactor wall (12) has an exposed arcing facing the drum 7 which is always fully wetted by the process liquid – not disclosed in the cited references – and each electrode group is connected to its own electrical energy supply device by way of its own switch – not shown in the cited references – and the arrangement according to the invention is such that an electric field strength of 10 kV/cm can be built up in the space between the electrodes within no more than 3 μ sec – which is not disclosed in the cited references either.

With all these features not disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner, it can hardly be said credibly that the invention is anticipated by the cited references

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102 is therefore respectfully requested.

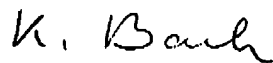
Furthermore, since many of the features as claimed in claim 1 of the present application are not shown in either of the two references applied by the Examiner nor in the references made of record by the Examiner a combination of the references could not possibly lead to the arrangement as defined in claim 1 and it could therefore hardly be said credibly that the invention is obvious in view of the cited references.

Claims 2 to 4 are directed to features which are not disclosed in the cited references either.

In addition, claims 2 to 4 are all directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 so that they include all the features of claim 1 and should be patentable already for that reason.

Reconsideration of the dependent claims is therefore also requested and allowance of claims 1 to 4 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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